

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of trimming blow molded products while in the mold, said method comprising:

placing a parison between two mold halves of a mold; moving the two mold halves together to form a cavity defined by the interior of the two mold halves and a cutting portion of a cutter, said cutting portion of said cutter substantially conforming to the shape of the portion of the interior of one of the two mold halves adjacent to said cutting portion and enclosing a portion of the parison within said cavity when the two mold halves move together;

blowing gas under pressure into the parison to expand the parison within said mold and thereby form a blow molded product;

using a vacuum supplied by a plurality of vacuum vents with at least one of the plurality of vents located on a first side of the cutter and at least one of the plurality of vents located on a second side of the cutter to hold a at least two portions of the product located adjacent to the first side of the cutter and the second side of the cutter, respectively, cutting portion against the interior of the mold;

trimming a portion of said product while it is in the mold and being held adjacent to both the first side of the cutter and the second side of the cutter by said vacuum by moving the cutter across and through the cavity and across the portion of the product to be cut;

separating the mold halves; and

removing the trimmed product from the mold.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said gas is air.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a slot plugging member conforming to the interior of the other mold half is moved when the cutter is moved across and through the cavity.

4. (New) A method of trimming blow molded products while in the mold, said method comprising:

placing a parison between two mold halves of a mold; moving the two mold halves together to form a cavity defined by the interior of the two mold halves and a cutting portion of a cutter, said cutting portion of said cutter substantially conforming to the shape of the portion of the interior of one of the two mold halves adjacent to said cutting portion and enclosing a portion

of the parison within said cavity when the two mold halves move together;

blowing gas under pressure into the parison to expand the parison within said mold and thereby form a blow molded product;

using a vacuum supplied by a plurality of vacuum vents arranged around the interior periphery of the mold cavity adjacent to the cutter to hold at least a portion of the product against the interior periphery of the mold cavity at a plurality of spaced apart peripheral points adjacent to the cutter;

trimming a portion of said product while it is in the mold and being held at the plurality of peripheral points adjacent to the cutter by said vacuum by moving the cutter across and through the cavity and across the portion of the product to be cut;

separating the mold halves;

and removing the trimmed product from the mold.

5. (New) A method of trimming blow molded products while in the mold, said method comprising:

placing a parison between two mold halves of a mold; moving the two mold halves together to form a cavity defined by the interior of the two mold halves and a cutting portion of a cutter, said cutting portion of said cutter substantially conforming to the shape of the portion of the interior of one of the two mold halves adjacent to said cutting portion and enclosing a portion of the parison within said cavity when the two mold halves move together;

blowing gas under pressure into the parison to expand the parison within said mold and thereby form a blow molded product;

using a vacuum supplied by a first and second array of vacuum vents arranged around the interior periphery of the mold cavity, the first array of vacuum vents being located adjacent to a first side of the cutter, and the second array of vacuum vents being located adjacent to a second side of the cutter, to hold at least a portion of the product at a plurality of spaced apart peripheral points adjacent to both the first side and second side of the cutter against the interior periphery of the mold cavity;

trimming a portion of said product while it is in the mold and being held by said by both the first and second array of vacuum vents by moving the cutter across and through the cavity and across the portion of the product to be cut;

separating the mold halves; and

removing the trimmed product from the mold.